

AMENDMENT OF APPROPRIATION BILL.

L E T T E R

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A draught of a bill to amend section five of the act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1873.

JANUARY 25, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 21, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, inclosing a draught of a bill to amend section five of the act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1873, approved May 8, 1872.

The object of this amendment is to enable the War Department, upon proper application, to furnish for the use of the Indian service such subsistence supplies as may be spared from those provided for the Army, the cost of the same to be re-imbursed from the appropriations for the Indian service.

A perusal of the Acting Commissioner's letter will demonstrate the necessity for this legislation, and I respectfully recommend that the subject may receive the favorable action of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. SPEAKER
Of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 18, 1873.

SIR: By the fifth section of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Gov-

ernment for the year ending June 30, 1873, and for other purposes," (St.; vol. 17, p. 80,) it is provided, "That all proceeds of sales of old material, condemned stores, supplies, or other public property of any kind, shall hereafter be deposited and covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts on account of Government property, and shall not be withdrawn or applied except in consequence of a subsequent appropriation made by law," &c.

Previous to the passage of the above act this Bureau could, when necessary, avail itself of the greater facilities of the War Department for furnishing supplies for the Indian service at remote places, not within the reach of the agencies of the Indian Department; and superintendents and agents stationed in the vicinity of military posts were also afforded the privilege of purchasing from the commissaries of the Army, at cost price, such articles of subsistence as were required for their own use and for the use of the employés attached to the agencies, the appropriation for the Army being re-imbursed, in the former case, from the appropriations for the Indian service for all expenses thus incurred, and in the latter case, the funds could be again used the same as when sales are made to officers of the Army; but since the passage of the act in question, by which such re-imbursement cannot be effected, the honorable Secretary of War has found it necessary to prohibit by general order the issue of supplies for the Indian service under any circumstances whatever.

The enforcement of this order entails great inconvenience and increased expenses upon the Indian service, its agents and employés.

As a matter of economy to the Government, as well as of convenience and necessity to the agents and employés of this Department, I earnestly request that Congress be asked to amend the fifth section of the act above cited, so as to enable the War Department, upon proper application being made, to furnish for the use of the Indian service such supplies as can be spared from those provided for the Army, the cost of the same to be re-imbursed from the appropriations for the Indian service. I respectfully submit herewith a draught of a bill embracing the necessary legislation asked for.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

AN ACT to amend section five of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1873, and for other purposes," approved May 8, 1872.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the fifth section of the act approved May 8, 1872, making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1873, shall not be held to apply to materials, stores, or supplies sold to superintendents, agents, and employés of the Indian Department, for their own use, or furnished for the Indian service at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the cost of such materials, stores, or supplies to be, as heretofore, re-imbursed to the War Department from appropriations for the Indian service.